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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC

September 13, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S DISASTER RESPONSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Madam Speaker, before I respond to President Trump's claim that the rescue and recovery effort in Puerto Rico a year ago after Hurricane Maria was "one of the best jobs that's ever been done," I want to make a few things clear.

First of all, everyone is praying for our friends and neighbors along the eastern seaboard who will be facing the

wind and rain of Hurricane Florence today. I support them and the first responders who are helping and the people running shelters and delivering medicine to the sick and the injured; and I fully support FEMA, Homeland Security, and State and local governments for what they are doing, especially the brave men and women on the front line in harm's way today.

Secondly, in the last few weeks, the official death toll of Hurricane Maria was raised to 3,000 based on a meticulous study by George Washington's Milken Institute of Public Health, and the number is based on facts and the truth. More people died in Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico than died in Hurricane Katrina and that died in the attacks on September 11.

That is not fake news, Mr. President.

The temptation is to fault FEMA and the job they did in Puerto Rico. I want to make clear, individuals at FEMA and FEMA as an agency did heroic work in Puerto Rico, and FEMA continues to do that work.

I flew with FEMA pilots 10 days after the storm hit, and I saw their work up close. It is clear that they saved lives.

But let me also be very, very clear. With 3,000 people dead, for the President to say that Puerto Rico was a success, a triumph of his Presidency, is simply delusional.

Only in the President's mind could he give himself an A-plus. Only in the President's mind could we go a year without an apology to the American people for his incompetence in managing a crisis where 3,000 people died, Mr. President. And now he denies that they are even dead.

It takes a man of humility, honor, and compassion to admit when he has made a tremendous and deadly mistake in caring for the American people; and we know we do not have a man in the White House who is capable of such emotions of empathy, of basic human decency.

This Congress has failed to provide any meaningful oversight for fear they might embarrass the President with the facts.

Thursday will mark 1 year since the storm hit, and think back a year ago. The popular and charismatic mayor of San Juan, Carmen Yulin Cruz, called for help on national TV, saying people are dying. The President had a meltdown because he doesn't like being criticized by women, so the mayor's words were more than the President could take.

Most of us knew at the time, and all of us know now a year after the storm, the mayor was right and the President was wrong. People died. He was dead wrong.

Disasters require preparedness and rapid response, but FEMA was not fully prepared, and they were not fully supported in the rapid response by the Trump administration, which was then and is now a disorganized mess. And we don't need Bob Woodward to tell us that.

Yes, the massive power of the storm was compounded by decades of neglect from Washington, which contributed to the debt crisis and infrastructure collapse. And to be clear, Puerto Rico's problems didn't happen overnight and didn't happen on President Trump's watch. But let us also be clear, it is his watch now.

As President of the United States, he is responsible for Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory that belongs to, is a possession, property of the United States of America.

Yes, islands are surrounded by water, Mr. President—in the case of Puerto Rico, deep water—but FEMA and Homeland Security never called the most powerful military in the world, the U.S. military, which has capabilities and capacities well beyond those of FEMA.

From the beginning, the President's focus was on damage control from a political standpoint, not damage control

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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from a human life standpoint. The sad truth is that, in trying so hard to make sure that the hurricane didn't become "Trump's Katrina," we lost far more lives. This was a disaster mismanagement, and that lies at the feet of the President and his administration.

What is offensive to many of us is that, even though the President dropped the ball, he is now doing a victory dance in the end zone—or should we call it the dead zone.

I pray that his response to the current disaster unfolding along the East Coast will be better and more empathetic. He has a golf club in North Carolina and a winery in Virginia, so maybe the American people in those States will get more of the President's help than my fellow Puerto Ricans did. And I pray the response is more successful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING MIAMI BRIDGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Miami Bridge organization located in my congressional district.

I would also like to highlight my friend and constituent, Judy Reinach, also known as the barefoot hostess, for her tireless efforts on behalf of this organization for decades.

Founded by Catholic Charities in the 1970s, Miami Bridge has been helping young people in crisis who have run away, are truant, homeless, or are having issues and problems in their homes.

From its humble beginnings in a city of Miami motorcycle repair shop underneath the Metrorail Bridge, this incredible organization has been a guiding light for our youth throughout Miami-Dade County who are in need of assistance and do not know where else to turn. In fact, its name, Miami Bridge, is homage to its humble location. Today, it has two campuses—one in Miami and the other one in Homestead—that serve our south Florida community.

Using its efficient intake process, Miami Bridge successfully matches young people or family members with the services that best meet their needs. Victims of abuse, of neglect, or worse seek refuge in the comprehensive services provided by Miami Bridge in order to help turn their lives around.

This organization's professional staff and its board of directors provide counseling, case management, a formal academic education program, mental health services, substance abuse prevention services, youth development activities, life skills education, recreation, and so much more.

Miami Bridge also offers First Stop for Families, a crisis intervention serv-

ice that helps head off conflicts and links families to resources to help them open lines of communication, teach effective parenting skills, reduce antisocial behaviors, and link families with any other available resources.

As a former Florida certified teacher, I applaud its truancy diversion services because I know that education, staying in school, is the key to a successful life and future.

Madam Speaker, the statistics demonstrating the success of this organization speak for themselves. Between 2015 and 2016, 890 families were served by Miami Bridge: 93 percent of youth served were placed back in their home or an appropriate placement after leaving the shelter; 85 percent of youth remained in school after completing their shelter stays.

However, the development of this incredible organization has not occurred in a vacuum. The Key Biscayne Islander News has given Miami Bridge events substantial coverage, and the Rotary Club of Key Biscayne has helped raise funds for programs that help the neediest young men and women in our community.

Many south Florida individuals and businesses have aided and supported the mission of Miami Bridge over the past decades.

I congratulate its leadership: CEO Dorcas Wilcox, CFO Steve Hope, Chief Operations and Technology Officer David Sharfman, Chief Administrative and Compliance Officer Baldwin Davis, and Chief Program Officer Mary Behr, in addition to its board members—Marlene Quintana, Alfred Karram, Jr., Joseph Cantrell, Beatriz Martin, Judy Reinach, Darren Campbell, Todd Giardina, Jahan S. Islami, Johane Domersant, Julie Harris Nelson, Mayling Exposito, Michael Alvarez, Patrick Murphy, Peggy Fucci, and Province "Boo" Zamek—on their tremendous work.

So Miami Bridge, here is to many more years of success and services on behalf of south Florida's troubled youth. Thank you for all the work that you do.

55TH ANNIVERSARY OF 16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH BOMBING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the 55th observance of the bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and to commemorate the lives and legacy of four precious little girls—Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Morris Wesley—who were murdered during that devastating attack 55 years ago.

On September 15, 1963, at 10:22 a.m., the four little girls were getting dressed in the bathroom downstairs in the church, preparing to sing in the

church choir. The morning of the bombing, some 200 church members were in the building getting ready for the 11 o'clock service.

When the bomb detonated on the church's east side, it caused the interior walls of the church to cave in and sent mortar and bricks flying from across the front of the church. Most of the parishioners were able to evacuate the building as it filled with smoke, but the bodies of four little girls were found beneath the rubble in the basement restroom.

The bombing was a racially motivated act of terrorism, Madam Speaker, orchestrated by four suspected members of the Ku Klux Klan. As part of the attack, the men planted 19 sticks of dynamite outside the basement of the church.

Along with the murder of the four little girls, a dozen other people were injured, including Sarah Collins Rudolph, the younger sister of Addie Mae Collins. Sarah had been in the basement with her sister and the other girls getting ready for church—yes, getting ready for church service.

The attack would later be described by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity.

As the day continued, thousands of African Americans protested, gathering in scenes across the State. Governor Wallace, at the time, soon called in the police to break up the protests. Dozens of people were arrested, and two young Black boys were also killed that day: Johnnie Robinson, 16, and Virgil Ware, 13. Robinson was shot by a police officer, and Ware was killed by two White youths within hours of the bomb detonating.

Following the attack, several people were suspected, but no one was immediately brought to justice. It wasn't until 14 years later, in 1977, when then-Alabama Attorney General Bob Baxley reopened the case and the investigation began to make headway. Eventually, Klan leader Robert Chambliss was finally brought to trial and convicted of the murders.

It would take another 20 years before the other Klansmen accomplices were brought to justice. It was then-U.S. Attorney DOUG JONES who brought justice, leading to the convictions of Thomas Blanton and Bobby Cherry.

The events that took place in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 15, 1963, became a major catalyst for the civil rights movement. The loss of four young girls was not in vain for, you see, we got the passage of very important historic civil rights legislation because of their sacrifice: the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Today, as we continue to seek justice and equality for all people, Madam Speaker, we must appreciate just how far we have come. Every gain in the battle for civil rights has come at a high cost, paid for by those who believed in a vision and a dream bigger